

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q87054

Yasuki KIMURA

Appln. No.: National Stage Entry of PCT/JP2004/004938

Confirmation No.: not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: not yet assigned

Filed: March 24, 2005

Examiner: not yet assigned

For: METHOD OF ETCHING A CHROMIUM-BASED THIN FILM AND METHOD OF
MANUFACTURING A PHOTOMASK

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
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foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents (International Search Report for PCT/ JP2004/004938 dated July 27, 2004) together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for the foreign language documents, Applicant also submits the following explanations: English language abstracts, submitted herewith, constitute concise statements of relevance for the Japanese Patent Application Publications. Additionally, JP 10-107013 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,976,986 and JP 2001-183809 corresponds to U.S. 2001/006753.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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Date: March 24, 2005

10/529152

JC06 Rec'd PCT/PTO

24 MAR 2005

MODIFIED PTO FORM A & B (06-03)

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO				Complete if Known	
<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</u> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	National Stage Entry of PCT/JP2004/004938
				Confirmation Number	Not yet assigned
				Filing Date	March 24, 2005
				First Named Inventor	Yasuki KIMURA
				Art Unit	Not yet assigned
				Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Q87054

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 5,976,986	A	11/2/1999	Naeem et al.
		US 2001/006753	A1	7/5/2001	Inoue
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	2001-183809	A	7/6/2001	NEC CORP.	Abstract
		JP	01-149425	A	6/12/1989	The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.	Abstract
		JP	10-107013	A	4/24/1998	International Business Machines Corp.	Abstract
		JP	09-279367	A	10/28/1997	Mitsubishi Electric Corp.	Abstract
		JP	2001-135617	A	5/18/2001	Sony Corp.	Abstract
		JP	07-094468	A	4/7/1995	Fujitsu Ltd.	Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		JAMES A. REYNOLDS, et al., Proceedings of SPIE: 17 TH Annual Symposium on Photomask Technology and Management, 17-19 September 1997, Volume 3236, pp. 94-103	
		HIDEO SUGAI, Production and Physics of High Density Plasmas, Journal of Sputtering & Plasma Processes, Vol. 13, No. 4, October 9, 1998, Japan	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.